

## SHARK

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#### Document Body

News From Representative Raúl M. Grijalva  
7th Congressional District of Arizona

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2008

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Grijalva Statement on EPA Control Over Santa Cruz River

Tucson, AZ---The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the Santa Cruz River in Arizona is a "special case" and will now assume control over the decision on navigability of the River for purposes of the federal Clean Water Act. In July, the Corps suspended a study determining the navigability of two reaches of the river for what the agency called a national policy review.

Rep. Grijalva releases the following statement concerning this issue:

"I recently wrote to the U.S. EPA requesting that the agency take over the determination of federal jurisdiction on the Santa Cruz River. My view is that the EPA, which has much broader authority and responsibility to enforce the Clean Water Act, should be the federal agency in charge in this case.

"I am pleased that the EPA, in taking over the decision on the Santa Cruz River, has recognized the importance of the river and its tributaries. There is no legitimate reason why the Clean Water Act should not apply to this river system which provides a critical water source for our region. I look forward to seeing the EPA enforce the law to protect human health and the environment by preventing pollution of the river.

"It is clear from internal EPA documents that have been released by Rep. Waxman, Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Rep. Oberstar, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, that two recent Supreme Court case interpretations of Clean Water Act authority have created a regulatory mess for the federal agencies, a mess which needs to be fixed by Congress with the Clean Water Restoration Act, H.R. 2421. In Arizona alone, according to the experts at EPA, we stand to lose protection of approximately 95% of our streams and rivers under current federal agency interpretations, which would allow pollution to greatly increase to the detriment of our environment and the health and safety of our communities.

"I will continue to work with other members of Congress to move H.R. 2421 forward this year. In the meantime, I will work with the EPA to ensure that their decision-making process on the Santa Cruz River is transparent to the public and meets appropriate standards for protection of the environment, as intended by the Clean Water Act of 1972."

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